



Annual Report 2025

*Connecting Africa's
Library and Information
Communities*



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From the Executive Director



I present our 2025 Annual Report to you and welcome you to have a good read. This was a very busy year for the African Library and Information Associations and Institutions (AfLIA). We had requests from membership to look into capacity building in emerging effective library service provision areas, especially Open education. We forged links with relevant organisations to assist in satisfying these needs. We also organised the 6th AfLIA Conference and 8th African Library Summit, which was held in Windhoek, Namibia, and it was a great success.

We thought outside of the box then and found out what we could do more, outside of face-to-face training or meetings. The new areas we ventured into have opened newer grounds we can use to enhance the capacity of our members and users to serve their communities better. These have been very useful innovations.

Within this year we brought on some new partnerships to assist AfLIA deliver on its mandate. We continued to respond to some relevant calls for funding proposals, the outcomes of which we are still waiting for.

Time flies. AfLIA celebrated its 10 years of existence in May 2023 as part of its conference. We welcomed and swore in our newly elected Officers for the 2023-2025 term, a new Governing Council, in May, and they have already started working earnestly.

Our appreciation goes to the Governing Council members, old and new and active partners, membership and the focused and hardworking AfLIA staff.

AfLIA is poised to add on new service areas as requested by our members and then bring in more innovative services as it begins its next decade.

Helena Asamoah-Hassan, PhD
Executive Director

Who We Are

AfLIA is an independent international not-for-profit organization, which pursues the interests of library and information associations, library and information services, librarians and information workers and the communities they serve in Africa.

Our Vision

The trusted voice of the African library and information community in Africa's development.

Our Mission

To lead, empower and be a platform for the library and information community to actively promote and drive development agenda through dynamic and innovative services to transform livelihoods in Africa.

Our Values

AfLIA has the following as its core values:

- Professionalism and Inclusivity
- Integrity, Transparency & Accountability
- Innovation & Creativity
- User focused
- Information as a Human Right

Where We Work

AfLIA is a pan-African association so its area of work is the whole geographic area known as Africa including its islands.

What We Do

- Advocacy for freedom and equitable access to information through improved facilities and human capacity of libraries, for individual and national development in Africa.
- Support human, organizational and infrastructural development of the library and information profession and services by building capacity through training to offer relevant services to communities.
- Pursue partnerships and collaboration by forging and maintaining links with other relevant organizations and associations for mutual benefits and also for those of the African people through libraries.

- Advocacy with governments and agencies - favourable library policies to be included in National Development Policy.
- Position libraries as information centres and partners on the national and global development agenda.
- Mobilise resources to support library projects and membership services in Africa.
- Organise fora for knowledge sharing and networking for librarians in Africa to support improved library and information service delivery.

We do all these with the cooperation of National Governments, National Library Associations, the different types of Libraries in Africa and our partners.

Summary of Objectives

- **Support and strengthen:**
 - Support the library and information profession that anticipates and responds to the needs of communities in Africa.
 - Drive high standards in library and information services and professional practices in Africa.
- **Visibility & advocacy:**
 - Promote libraries and information centres as vital institutions that enhance people's lives through equitable access to knowledge, information and innovative services
 - Put the library and information profession on the national and continental agendas.
- **Free access to information:**
 - Embrace the principles of freedom of access to information... enshrined in the Article 19 of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights and Article 9 of the African Charter of People's Rights.

Our Activities in 2025

Membership

Currently, AfLIA has members in 40 out of the 54 countries of Africa and is actively working to expand membership to the rest of the Continent. . On, and on, we march towards covering all countries in Africa. After every webinar, seminar or conference an invitation to be AfLIA members are sent directly to the persons on the participant list.

Communications

Website Management and Content Publishing

The AfLIA website remained the Association's primary platform for disseminating news, events, research outputs, and institutional information in 2025. Continuous updates and server maintenance were undertaken to improve usability, accessibility, and overall user experience. The Communications Office ensured that the website was regularly updated with timely and relevant content for members and the general public.

Key activities and outputs included:

A total of **31 web articles and resources were** published during the year, comprising:

- 18 news items
- 10 event announcements (webinars, trainings, workshops)
- 2 research reports
- 1 resource guide

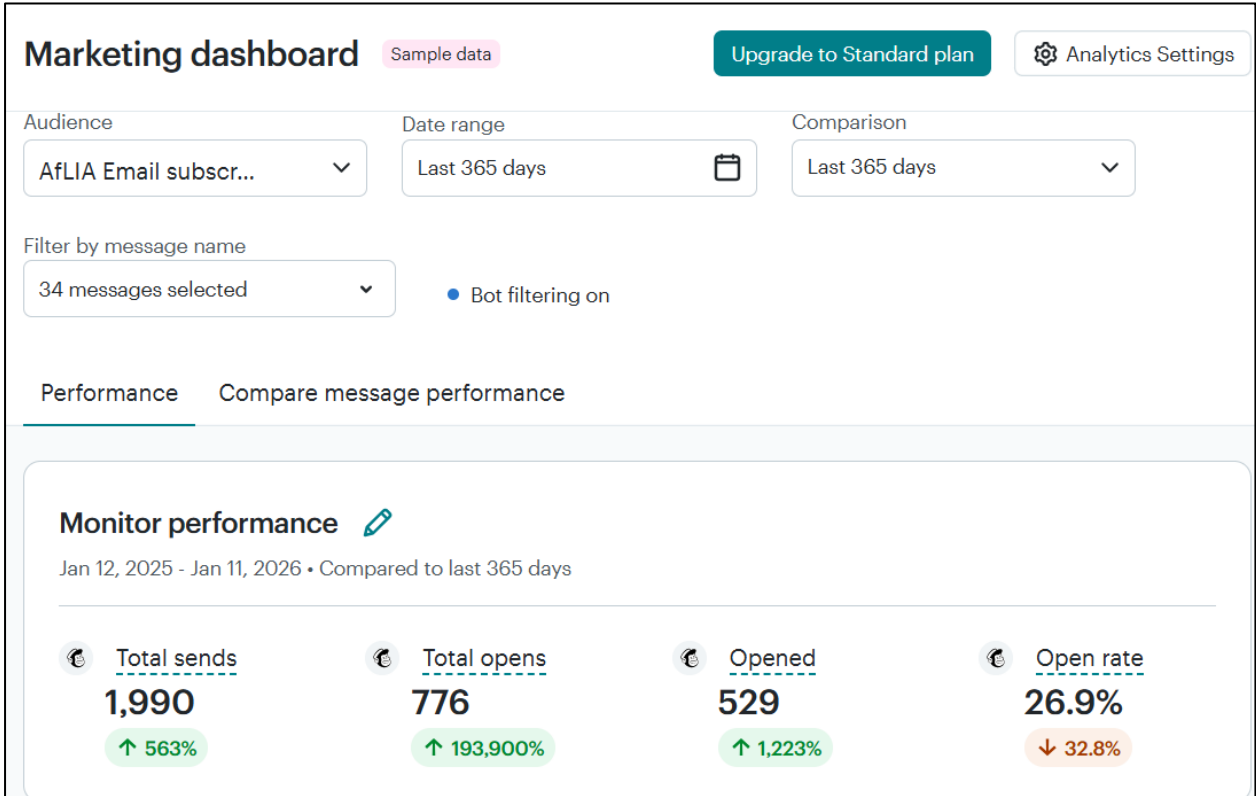
Newsletters and News Alerts

Newsletters and News Alerts were key communication tools used to engage AfLIA's membership, partners, and wider audience. While newsletters were shared monthly, news alerts were used to communicate urgent announcements and promote upcoming activities.

Key highlights included:

- Dissemination of **34 newsletters and news alerts** by the end of 2025.
- Ongoing collaboration between the Communications and Membership Offices to update and maintain mailing lists.

- Growth of AfLIA’s **General Mailing List** to **1,079 subscribers**, representing a **10% increase** compared to 2024.
 - Subscribers on this list receive general updates and announcements.
 - The list continues to serve as an important tool for outreach, visibility, and membership growth.



Engagements and interactions performance of AfLIA newsletters for 2025

Social Media and Digital Engagement

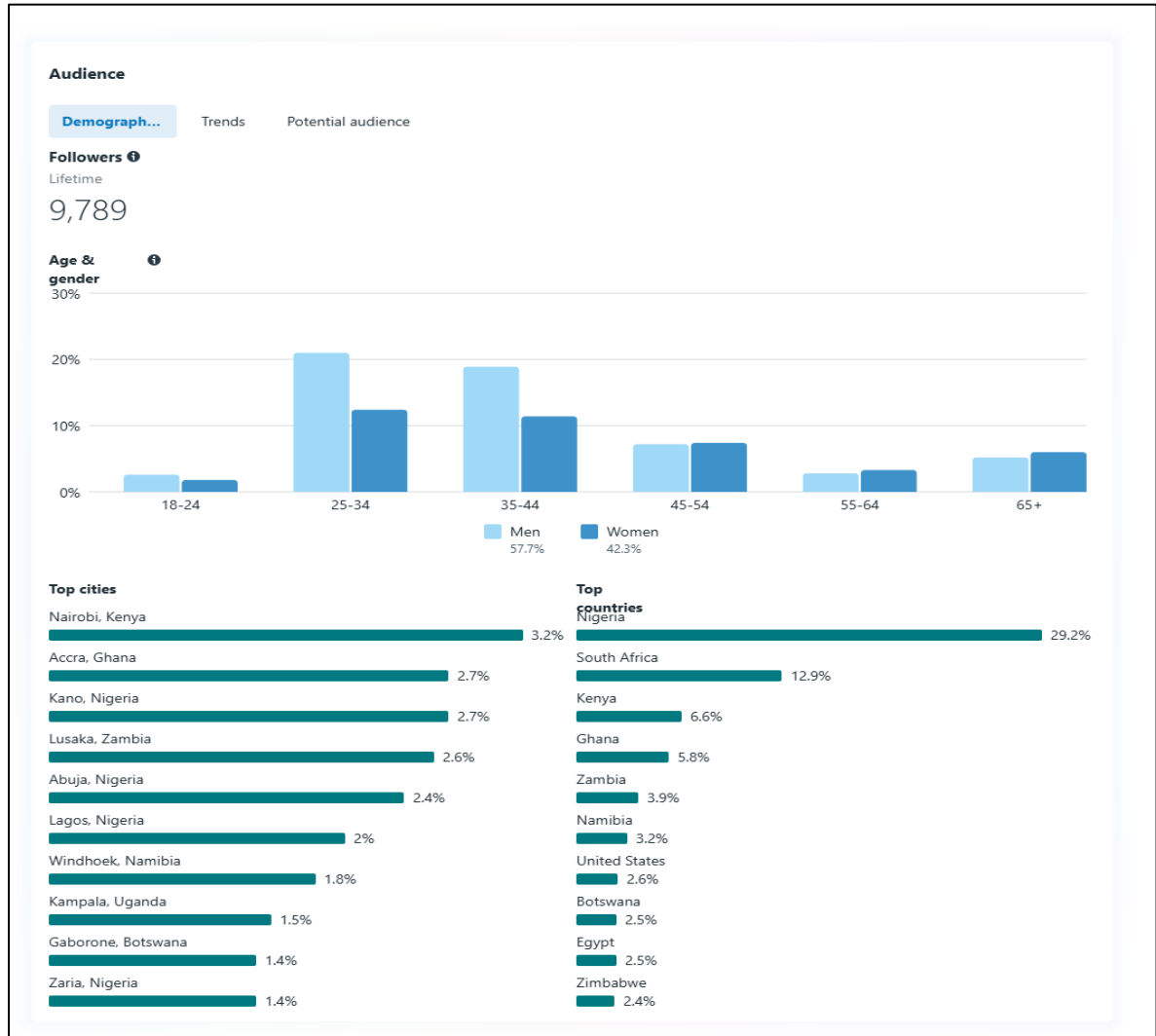
Social media platforms—Facebook, Twitter (X), and YouTube—served as effective channels for real-time engagement and brand visibility in 2025. AfLIA maintained a strong and consistent online presence through regular posting and audience interaction.

2025 Facebook Stats (@aflianetwork)	2025 X Stats (@afliacon)	YouTube (@AfLIACon)
9,789 Followers	2,711 Followers	794 subscribers

Key activities included:

- Promotion of all AfLIA news, events, reports, and official announcements published on the website across Facebook and Twitter.
- An average of **six social media posts per week** on Facebook and Twitter.
- Use of targeted hashtags to increase visibility and engagement, including:

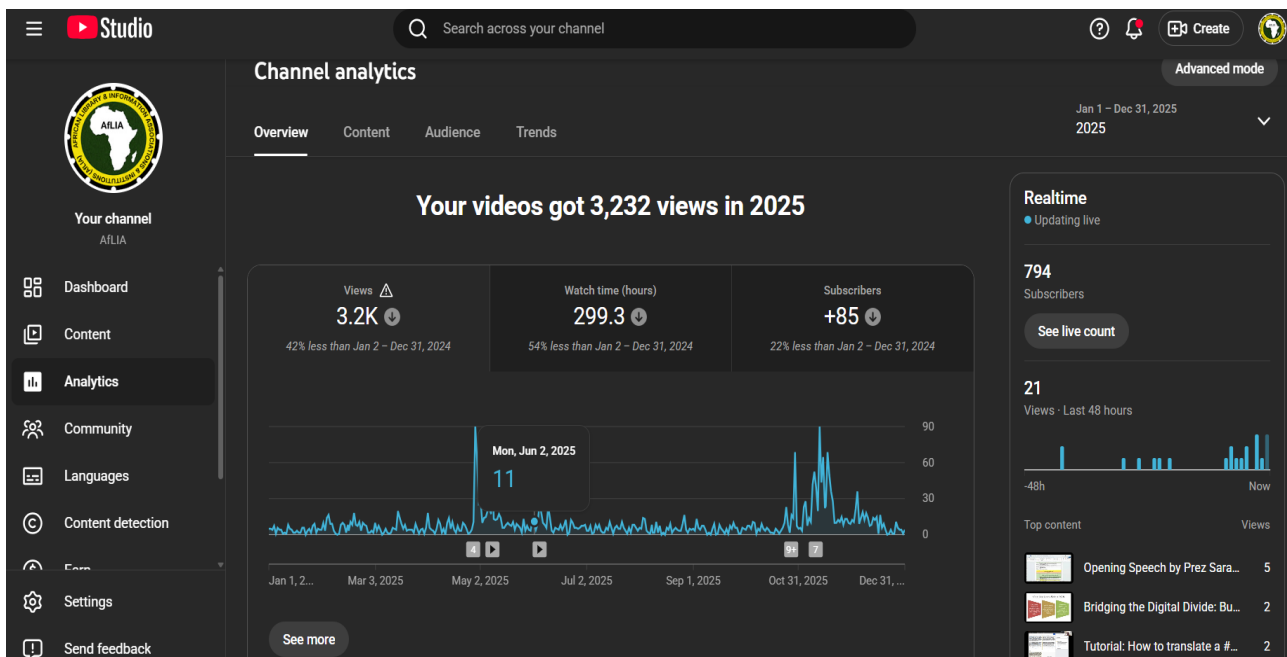
- **#AfLIACon2025** – for the AfLIA Conference and African Library Summit
- **#AfLibWk** – for African Librarians Week
- **#AfLIAWebinars** – for AfLIA webinars and online events



Graphical insight of AfLIA’s Facebook audience and their distribution - 2025

YouTube performance highlights:

- Subscriber base increased to **794**, representing a **20% growth** from 2024.
- **19 new videos** uploaded, including webinar recordings and training sessions.
- Channel performance metrics:
 - Nearly **3,200 views**
 - **299 hours** of watch time
 - **43,500 impressions and reactions**



Snapshot of AfLIA YouTube Channel Analytics for 2025

Webinars and Virtual Summits

List of webinars, short courses and virtual summits organised in 2025

Sessions	Dates	URL
Read Aloud Day	5 th February 2025	https://web.aflia.net/2026-world-read-aloud-day/
Libraries for ALL women and girls: Rights. Equality. Empowerment	March 10, 2025	https://web.aflia.net/libraries-for-all-women-and-girls-rights-equality-empowerment/
Les politiques gouvernementales et les bibliothèques dans les pays francophones : Table ronde	April 8, 2025 April 9, 2025	https://web.aflia.net/les-politiques-gouvernementales-et-les-bibliotheques-dans-les-pays-francophones-table-ronde/
Webinar: Strategic Repositioning and Koha Mastery for Special Libraries	April 22, 2025 April 23, 2025	https://web.aflia.net/webinar-strategic-repositioning-and-koha-mastery-for-special-libraries/
Intellectual Property Rights and Book Piracy in the Digital Era: African Context	April 28, 2025 April 29, 2025	https://web.aflia.net/intellectual-property-rights-and-book-piracy-in-the-digital-era-african-context/

The African Librarians Week (#AfLibWk) 2025 Webinar Series	May 5, 2025 May 8, 2025 May 14, 2025 May 15, 2025	https://web.aflia.net/african-librarians-week-aflibwk-2025/
Webinar – Beyond Library Information Services: Thriving in the AI Age with a Library Science Background – 2	May 6, 2025	https://web.aflia.net/webinar-beyond-library-information-services-thriving-in-the-ai-age-with-a-library-science-background-2/
DataCite Listen and Learn Virtual Session – Listening Party	May 12, 2025	https://web.aflia.net/datacite-listen-and-learn-virtual-session-listening-party/
Indigenous literacy in the age of multi-literacies for a sustainable future: A clarion call for action	August 26, 2025	https://web.aflia.net/indigenous-literacy-in-the-age-of-multi-literacies-for-a-sustainable-future-a-clarion-call-for-action/
2025 International Literacy Day Workshop	September 8, 2025	https://web.aflia.net/2025-international-literacy-day-workshop/
SPARC Africa Open Access Week 2025 Webinar Series	October 20, 2025 October 23, 2025	https://web.aflia.net/sparc-africa-open-access-week-2025-webinar-series/
AfLIA Open Access Week Virtual Summit Theme: Who owns our knowledge?	October 21, 2025 October 22, 2025	https://web.aflia.net/registration-open-2025-open-access-week-virtual-summit/
The 2025 African Public and Community Libraries Virtual Summit Theme: “Libraries Without Borders: Connecting the Dots”	December 3, 2025 December 4, 2025	https://web.aflia.net/registration-open-the-2025-african-public-and-community-libraries-virtual-summit/

2025 Read Aloud Day

The 2025 International Read Aloud Day was celebrated on Thursday, 5th February. Before this day, AfLIA hosted a preparatory webinar on 30th January to get African librarians ready for the day. The key area was building the capacity of librarians in teaching critical thinking skills (the ability to ask questions without passively accepting everything we read, hear and see but rather to question, evaluate, interpret and make judgments) through reading aloud to children. This was deemed necessary as African culture does not generally encourage children to ask questions. Times are changing, and bringing up naïve children opens the door for them to be exploited or to fall prey to street-wise youth, scammers and even perverts. Libraries, through read-aloud

sessions, can teach African children to think, ask questions, reason, and explore concepts and ideas.

The practical tips given at the webinar include;

- Ask open-ended questions that do not require just a simple yes or no, but that allow children and young people to think and use their imagination.
- Encourage discussions about the characters in the story, e.g., the story about how Tortoise and the Hare ran a race.- Why do you think the tortoise agreed to race the hare? What made the hare lose the race?
- Make connections between stories read aloud and the lived experiences of the children-
How do we behave like the hare when we have an assignment? Who sees themselves as the tortoise? Why?
- Make the children learn how to challenge assumptions, e.g., -Why did the hare stop on the way during the race?
- Role play and dramatise to help children develop empathy and understanding as they 'put themselves inside the story'

The webinar encouraged all the participants to observe World Read Aloud Day and to share the activities through their social media handles in order to boost their visibility.

2025 International Women's Day- 10th March

AfLIA celebrated the 2025 International Women's Day on March 10th with a panel discussion under the theme: “**Libraries for ALL Women and Girls: Rights. Equality. Empowerment.**” The discussion led librarians to understand how the various library types can support and empower women and girls in their communities, as well as how libraries share and preserve the stories of African women and girls to inspire future generations

Les politiques gouvernementales et les bibliothèques dans les pays francophones: Table ronde - 8th to 9th April

Government policies on literacy, digital literacy, copyright and education across African countries influence access to knowledge and how different library types operate. Regional representatives within AfLIA's Governing Council were asked to collaborate in organising **regional panel discussions** across the continent to analyze these policies and bring key issues to light. AfLIA was able to hold one of such webinars on 8th and 9th April for French-speaking West Africa. It is expected that when the webinars/panel discussions are done in every region of the continent, AfLIA would publish those policies, and how they impact library and information services.

Repositioning Special Libraries through Innovation and Technology: A Practical Approach with Koha Integrated Library System (ILS) - 22nd – 23rd April

The need for African Special libraries to transform and integrate technology into their services for relevance and alignment with the objectives of their parent institutions led the AfLIA team to liaise with AfLIA's Special Libraries Section to host a 2-day online workshop to equip library professionals in these institutions with strategic insights, practical skills, and Koha Library Management Software skills for delivering sustainable, impactful services in a rapidly evolving knowledge environment. The webinars took place on 22nd and 23rd April and were facilitated by the Head of Special Libraries Section.

World Intellectual Property Day- 28th – 29th April

World Intellectual Property Day is celebrated every year on April 26 to raise awareness about the importance of protecting creative work. AfLIA held a 2-day webinar to draw the attention of librarians to how the Internet and digital technology have made access to information easier, as well as how they have increased the risk of copyright violations and intellectual property theft.

The three discussants from the different arms of the creative industry (music, arts, publishing) helped librarians to understand the roles they could play in curbing book piracy in the digital era. Importantly, they suggested that AfLIA could lead the African library sector to collaborate with technology companies and other stakeholders for strategies on checking piracy and violation of copyright provisions.

The discussants also suggested that the African library sector, as educators as well as heritage preservation professionals working in concert with other stakeholders, could lead the advocacy for collecting and archiving the music of various ethnic groups all over Africa with appropriate licenses because every beat deserves attribution and credit to the creator(s), whether it is an individual or a community.

Beyond Library Information Services: Thriving in the AI Age with a Library Science Background – 6th May

The AfLIA Secretariat worked with the Library Education and Training Institutions Section (LETIS) to organise a webinar on 6th May 2025. This brought together library and information science (LIS) educators to discuss how LIS education can respond to the demands of the digital age while promoting social justice through teaching, research, and leadership. The goal of the webinar was to inspire and guide educators to align their work with digital trends and inclusive values, share innovative ideas, and strengthen LIS education systems in Africa.

The webinar featured two presentations. *“Reimagining LIS Education for the Digital and Social Justice Era,”* focusing on how LIS education in Africa can evolve to prepare future professionals for a technology-driven and equitable world, and *“AI and Leadership: Strategies for African Librarians,”* which examined how artificial intelligence is reshaping leadership in the LIS field and how African librarians can remain competitive and forward-looking in engaging with the technology in its diverse manifestations.

African Librarians Week - AfLibWk 6.0: 5th – 31st May

African Librarians Week (AfLibWk 6.0) was held from 5th to 31st May 2025. It was the 6th event organised since 2020, with the theme ***‘Library catalogues, linked data and Wikimedia projects: 1 citation, 1 resource made visible makes a difference!’*** The purpose of the event was to raise awareness of the role of African libraries and librarians in the 21st-century knowledge ecosystem and to encourage African librarians to sharpen their digital skills through collaborative editing of articles and items on Wikipedia, Wikidata, and other Wikimedia platforms, as chosen.

The campaign is open to all library and information professionals across Africa. The week was also used to address gaps in coverage of Africa on Wikipedia, Wikidata, and other Wikimedia platforms by adding reliable citations and ensuring that accurate, up-to-date information about Africa is available to a global audience. In all, ninety-seven ((97) African Librarians contributed to Wikipedia during the Week.

Before the event, the existing champions were contacted to recruit and train other Librarians in their countries on editing and adding citations to articles. Training was organised for the new Champions to help them better understand the various clauses on Wikipedia and its sister projects. A training session on account creation, joining the dashboard, and basic steps to editing Wikipedia by adding citations was organised on Thursday, 8th May at 10.30 a.m.

Both the existing and newly recruited champions went through training sessions on Wikidata to edit and add African items to the repository on 5th, 8th, 14th and 15th May. The screenshot below display the outcome of key indicator performance of the campaign. Full details of the campaign stats is available on the [activity dashboard here](#) and on the [AfLIA website here](#).

2025 AfLibWk Statistics

African Librarians Week_AfLibWK 20...		Home	Editors	Articles	Uploads	Activity	
395	1.25K	9.99K	83	671K	2.95K ⁱ	3.5M ⁱ	389 ⁱ
Articles Created	Articles Edited	Total Edits	Editors	Words Added	References Added	Article Views	Commons Uploads
www.wikidata.org							
General		Items		Claims		Labels	
7.41K	Total revisions	383	Created	3.89K	Created	630	Added
6	Merged	2	Cleared	1.79K	Changed	48	Changed
75	Interwiki links added			261	Removed	10	Removed
Descriptions		Aliases		Other			
782	Added	437	Added	613	Qualifiers added	3	Reverts performed
79	Changed	30	Changed	1.82K ^o	References added	0	Restorations performed
7	Removed	11	Removed	6	Redirects created		
Lexeme							
0	Created						

DataCite Listen and Learn Virtual Session – Listening Party

A webinar titled Listening Party, which forms part of the DataCite-funded project, was organised on 12th May 2025. The idea of the Listening Party was to use a curated playlist from the DataCite YouTube Channel for participants to listen, learn, and discuss key ideas together. It was also to understand, from the DataCite perspective, what metadata is, why it matters, how it supports open science, and how global tools like DataCite help libraries and researchers. Five short videos were streamed during the webinar; participants were given 5–10 minutes for group discussion after each video. Participants were allowed to reflect on what they heard, discuss, relate and share experiences from their own libraries and institutions.



Indigenous literacy in the age of multi-literacies for a sustainable future: A clarion call for action- August 26th

How can African libraries design culturally inclusive and responsive library collections and experiences? Answering this question is important because failure to align information and library services to the growing calls for cultural inclusivity has a significant impact on the quality of learning, building of cultural identity, national development, and sustainable development. To ensure socio-cultural inclusion, this webinar addressed how libraries can serve as spaces for multi-voice encounters and not just elitist institutions that propagate the Western way of life and ideologies. The resource person, Dr Collence Chisita, is a research fellow at the Durban University of Technology in the Department of Information Systems. The webinar was held on August 26th.

International Literacy Day- 8th September

AfLIA collaborated with African Storybook (ASb) of Saide to celebrate the 2025 International Literacy Day on 8th September. With resource persons from ASb, AfLIA ran a webinar aimed at creating and translating books into African languages using the ASb digital platform. The activity was meant to build the capacity of staff in African public and community libraries in using digital tools to enhance learning experiences of their user communities, provide access to a plethora of resources, and enhance collaboration and cost-effectiveness in building their collections.



The poster for the 2025 International Literacy Day Workshop features a green and yellow gradient background. At the top, a yellow banner reads "2025 International Literacy Day Workshop". Below this, the title "Multilingual resources for promoting literacy in the digital era" is displayed. The poster includes logos for AfLIA (African Library and Information Associations and Institutions) and African Storybook. Key details are listed: the date is Monday, 8th September, 2025; the time is 11:00 noon UTC | 12:00noon WAT | 1:00pm CAT/SAST | 2:00pm EAT; and the location is Zoom (Registration needed). At the bottom, the AfLIA mission statement is provided: "African Library and Information Associations and Institutions (AfLIA), building the capacity of African library professionals" with the website www.aflia.net.

The webinar was in line with the theme of the 2025 International Literacy Day, **“Promoting literacy in the digital era.”** The workshop exposed public librarians to a compendium of books for literacy development. Overall, the programme was designed to equip public and community library personnel and other literacy development practitioners with practical skills to support inclusive, culturally responsive literacy programmes in diverse African contexts. For the International Literacy Day, AfLIA also led librarians to add to their digital library of storybooks on the [Storyweaver platform](#). Stories were translated from English to Setswana, Siswati, Shona, IsiNdebele and Igbo.

2025-SPARC Africa Open Access Week - October 20th and 23rd

A two-day SPARC Africa Open Access Week Webinar Series was organised in collaboration with Jill Claassen, Dr Richard Lamptey, and Dr Oman Aldirdiri.

Day 1 (Monday, 20 October 2025): *Regional Perspectives on Diamond Open Access*.

The session examined Diamond Open Access (DOA) from global and regional perspectives. Speakers from Africa, Asia, the United States, Europe, Latin America, the Middle East and North Africa (MENA) shared insights on how DOA is implemented in different regions.



SPARC* Open Access Week 2025
Africa **Webinar Series**

Day 01 OCTOBER 20, 2025 **Topic** Regional perspectives on Diamond Open Access

1pm UTC | 2pm WAT | 3pm CAT/SAST | 4pm EAT (90 mins)

Presenters

- Dr. Osman Aldirdiri (Moderator), SPARC Africa Management Committee Member
- Dr. Felicia Nwunah, Nwagwada, Africa President
- Dr. Mounika Koley, Director of Policy, Research, MSc, Education and Learning, Ashoka, India, Asia President
- Dr. Graham Stone, Europe President
- Dr. Blanca Amaro, Director of Research, Technology and Innovation, Brazil, Latin America President
- Sharia Lair, Africa President

In partnership with SPARC*

Day 2 (Thursday, 23 October 2025): *African Universities Publishing Diamond Open Access on the African Platform for Open Scholarship (APOS)*. The session highlighted APOS and featured speakers from African universities already publishing on the platform. Speakers shared their experiences, challenges, and benefits of publishing using the Diamond Open Access model. A total of 368 participants registered for the webinar series, with close to 70% attending at least one of the sessions.



SPARC* Open Access Week 2025
Africa **Webinar Series**

Day 02 OCTOBER 23, 2025 **Topic** African Universities Publishing Diamond Open Access on the African Platform for Open Scholarship (APOS)

1pm UTC | 2pm WAT | 3pm CAT/SAST | 4pm EAT (90 mins)

Presenters

- Ms Anna Leonard, University of Namibia, Namibia
- Mr Sagren Moodley, Durban University of Technology, South Africa
- Dr Joelline Chigwada, Chinhoyi University of Technology, Zimbabwe
- Dr Fatimah Zaki, Aduzzaman, Federal State Council of Education, Nigeria

Moderator
Ms Jill Claassen, SPARC Africa Management Committee Member

In partnership with SPARC*

AfLIA Open Access Week Virtual Summit - October 21-22, 2025

To make the Open Access Week more participatory and community-driven, AfLIA held an Open Access Week virtual Summit over two days (21-22 October 2025) and also as a part of the broader 18th edition of the International Open Access Week (20–26 October 2025) celebration with the theme, “**Who Owns Our Knowledge?**” The Summit invited reflection on ownership, control, access, and equity in the creation and dissemination of knowledge. This Summit was held by AfLIA, in collaboration with the Academic Library and Library Consortium Section and LETIS.

A call was made via the website and across all AfLIA social media platforms, and invitations were also sent to libraries, allied institutions, and professionals, including 5 keynote speakers. The call received 15 proposals, of which 13 (11 in English and 2 in French) were approved.

The OA Week Summit ran under four tracks, including the exploration of how persistent identifiers and metadata support ownership and discoverability. The Summit featured 4 keynote addresses on the different tracks as follows and twelve (12) presentations

- Who owns our knowledge? Persistent Identifiers and Metadata for Open Access Best Practices
- Artificial Intelligence and Knowledge Ownership
- Visibility, Ownership, and Access: Indigenous Knowledge and Citizen Science
- Digital infrastructure, structural inequities and open access

A parallel section in French was conducted. Over 170 participants attended the Summit. Members commended AfLIA for the program and suggested that it should be an annual event for African Librarians interested in Open Access to share ideas among themselves.

African Library & Information Associations & Institutions

Registration is still open.

presents

2025 Open Access Week Virtual Summit

THEME Who Owns Our Knowledge? **21-22 October 2025**

SUB-THEMES

1. Persistent Identifiers and Metadata for Open Access Best Practices
2. Artificial Intelligence and Knowledge Ownership
3. Visibility, Ownership, and Access: Indigenous Knowledge and Citizen Science
4. Digital infrastructure, structural inequities, and open access

Visit web.aflia.net for more info.

The 2025 African Public and Community Libraries Virtual Summit - December 3 - 4

This Summit, themed “**Libraries Without Borders: Connecting the Dots**”, was held from December 3-4. Eight sub-themes were developed to assist AfLIA in addressing the broad theme. However, the two subthemes that emerged strongly were “Citizenship engagement in Libraries” and “Artificial Intelligence”.

- Digital transformation and access to knowledge
- Inclusive libraries serving diverse, multilingual, and marginalised communities
- Cultural and documentary heritage through public and community libraries
- Green libraries and environmental stewardship
- Networking and collaboration among African public and community libraries
- Civic engagement, democracy, and community building
- Education policies and lifelong learning connections with libraries
- Play and interactive learning as integral parts of library services

There were 100 participants, and the event concluded with an Annual General Meeting for public and community libraries. Members agreed at the meeting that the summit should be an annual event for the Public and Community Libraries in Africa.

Other Activities

Integrating Wikimedia Projects into the African Libraries Ecosystem

The project continued in 2025 with the following activities;

a. Capacity building for the Project Team

Concurrent training for the project team by **Wikimedia Deutschland** and Senior Program Officer (Libraries) **WMF on setting up and running the Wikibase cloud**.

A pivotal consultation on March 21st with **Jason Evans (National Library of Wales Wikimedian)**, who highlighted challenges and solutions for the National Library of Nigeria Wikibase implementation

b. Preparatory Training and Capacity Building for NLN staff

Early engagements had identified the need for **foundational training** for librarians and IT staff. Selected **National Library of Nigeria Ambassadors** were introduced to project goals, followed by **one month of online training (Feb–Mar 2025) for them. They were led them to understand linked open data** in library cataloguing. They also gained practical skills for working on **Wikidata** (item creation, statements, identifiers,

and references). One thousand, five hundred and thirty (1,530) new Wikidata items were created for authors and 6,300 references were added.

c. Standardisation and Data Quality

Development of a **National Library of Nigeria Naming Authority Guide** (March 2025) to ensure consistent names, titles, and labels.

The guide supported data cleanup and enabled creation of a “**NLN Authority Name For**” property in the Wikibase cloud.

d. Physical Training and Implementation

A physical training on creating and populating the National Library of Nigeria Semantic Name Authority Repository (NLN SNAR) was held in Abuja, 7th – 11th April, 2025. The main objective was to build sufficient capacity to populate and manage the Wikibase instance with accurate data. The physical training afforded the project team with the opportunity to conclude training on Wikidata and resolve challenges.

The thirty (30) NLN staff were also introduced to Wikibase through hands-on work in a [sandbox instance](#) created for training and experimentation. This sandbox was used to safely test workflows, create items, properties, and statements and to reduce errors before contributing to NLN SNAR. Also, during the physical training, NLN staff were registered on to the NLN SNAR and provided with guidance on data population.

e. Project outcomes

i. Wikibase Cloud Instance

A Wikibase Cloud instance was created in partnership with Wikimedia Deutschland using the National Library of Nigeria’s legal deposit collection. The platform serves as a semantic name authority control centre for Nigerian authors and editors. It supports library cataloguing, metadata management, and the creation/enrichment of Wikidata and Wikipedia profiles. The instance links authoritative name forms to structured metadata and the global knowledge graph. It is envisaged that a future expansion will include publishers, books, journals, affiliations, and cultural artifacts. It can be accessed here <https://nlinsnar.wikibase.cloud/>. Also the site is linked to NLN’s online catalogue.

The NLN SNAR data model is structured to guide cataloguers, developers, and researchers, based on functional grouping of properties (e.g., identity, classification), nature of values (biographical vs. professional), linkage to external authorities (e.g., Library of Congress, Wikidata, ORCID) and System-specific properties, unique to NLN SNAR (e.g., NLN Authority Name Form, NLN Bibliography URL).

An oversight framework has been established by the project team to safeguard data integrity. These include ongoing review processes to detect and resolve duplicates incorrect identifiers (including those imported from Wikidata), merging, correcting, or

deleting erroneous items and properties. Oversight responsibilities will be gradually transferred to NLN staff as their capacity increases.

ii. Introduction to Wikibase for African librarians

A short foundational course introducing linked open data (LOD) for authority control in African libraries and allied institutions was created by AfLIA. It focuses on improving the visibility, accessibility, and discoverability of African knowledge and cultural heritage using Wikibase and links to Wikidata. Three strands make up the underlying philosophy of the course.

First, linked open data is essential for 21st century library services, especially for African libraries, for fulfilling their mandate to make African knowledge visible and discoverable. Second, Wikibase can serve as an enabler and a platform for this, as it provides a cost-effective way to migrate and manage authority files, link them to Wikidata, and integrate with platforms such as Wikipedia. Third, African National Libraries need to serve as authoritative validation points for African entities (names, books, and other items).

The course, which has five (5) modules with readings, activities, and peer-learning discussion prompts, is expected to provide participants with a basic understanding of linked open data, the Semantic Web, and their impact on research and discoverability. It would also help National libraries clean, update, and create standardised naming conventions, improve existing data quality, add authors and creators from their collections to Wikidata, set up and manage a Wikibase instance (creating properties and items, adding statements, mapping properties and linking to Wikidata and data reconciliation and enrichment), import large-scale datasets into Wikibase and query Wikibase using SPARQL.

The course, which is hosted on AfLIA's Moodle platform, is designed to run for 10 weeks and will be delivered at **one** National Library at a time to allow a focused, hands-on support from AfLIA. A basic assumption of the course is that participants would have completed [AfLIA's Openness Course for African Librarians](#) (facilitated or self-paced), ensuring a shared understanding of openness in knowledge and research.

iii. Summation of Virtual conversations

A summation of the virtual conversations which were held in October – November between the Wikimedia movement in Africa and the African library sector to strengthen collaboration, expand Wikimedia engagement, and unlock African cultural and documentary heritage for Wikipedia and related projects was published. Key actionable outcomes as published include;

- The need to identify core competencies which librarians need to contribute effectively to Wikimedia projects, which would enable local Wikimedia communities to support targeted training.
- The establishment of clear collaboration frameworks involving AfLIA, National Library Associations, and Wikimedia communities.
- Encouraging the formation of a Wikimedia Community User Group for African librarians to increase participation, open libraries to Wikimedia activities, and embed Wikimedia work into library services.
- Create Wikimedia Sections or Interest/Working Groups within AfLIA and national library associations to formalize engagement and learning.
- Promote inclusion of Wikimedia projects as Open Knowledge platforms within library Open Access policies.

The summation of the virtual conversations highlights can be accessed on AfLIA's website via this [link](#).

iv. Survey Report

A survey was also conducted between November 2024 and February 2025 under the IWIPALE project and it examined how Wikimedia projects could be integrated into library routines. Responses came from all five regions of Africa, mainly from library professionals and members of Wikimedia communities. While most respondents were aware of Wikimedia projects as open, reusable knowledge platforms, some had never used or contributed to them or participated in virtual discussions. Even among previous contributors, many reported forgetting how to edit Wikipedia due to limited engagement after campaign activities. The full survey report is available [here](#).

v. White Paper

A White Paper **was developed to** provide practical strategies to implement insights from the Virtual Conversations and the Survey for stronger collaborations between the African Wikimedia community and the African library sector as well as how to transform African librarians and allied professionals from **seasonal/passive contributors to active Wikimedia participants**. The document noted that Sustainable partnerships require a mindset reset and synergy between the two sectors and included frameworks (structures, guidelines, and workflows) to streamline collaborations and practical steps on integration of **Wikibase** into national library cataloguing processes (modeled on the National Library of Nigeria).

vi. Presentations

The project aligned with the 2025 Wikimania theme of “Inclusivity, Impact, and Sustainability.” The project team facilitated a 1 hour, 25-minute workshop at Wikimania

2025 to introduce participants to the IWIPALE project, with a focus on the practical steps involved in creating the NLN SNAR. The workshop also helped library professionals understand how Wikibase can be integrated into routine cataloguing workflows to support the maintenance of discoverable, linked authority control databases. The presentation has been uploaded to Wikimedia Commons and can be accessed from this [link](#).

In addition, a panel discussion featuring moderators and panelists from the Virtual Conversations in East, Southern, and West Africa was held at Wikimania. The session was designed to strengthen sustainable collaborations between the African library sector and the Wikimedia movement in Africa.

The Global Access Fund (GAF) DataCite project: 1st January – 31st December 2025

The GAF grant proposal for **Open Data Infrastructure Course for African Libraries (ODICAL)** was approved and ran from 1st January – 31st December, 2025.

The following activities took place within the life span of the course;

- GAF sessions with DataCite on 10th January, 24th April, June, 4th, 29th October.
- A baseline survey to determine the level of awareness, knowledge, supportive policies and uptake of, open digital infrastructure as part of Open Science. The survey also probed the African library sector's knowledge of different persistent identifiers, DataCite, and its services, whether they assign DOIs to datasets, theses, and dissertations, as well as if any of their institutions were considering or already using DOI registration agencies. The report prepared by the Research Coordinator can be accessed [here](#).
- As a response to the preliminary findings of the baseline survey, a Listening Party was held virtually on 12th May 2025 as a simplified way for introducing open research infrastructure to the African library sector through listening to curated video and audio clips, holding conversations, asking questions and learning together.



- As part of the project, on 20th May, 2025, a physical workshop on “*Empowering Open Knowledge in Africa: Leveraging Persistent Identifiers and Open Research Infrastructure*” was held at the 6th AfLIA conference and 8th African Library Summit. African librarians used the opportunity to ask questions and receive answers on how to get persistent identifiers for themselves, their user communities, their various institutions and research outputs. The presentation is available [here](#).
- AfLIA’s Open Access Week virtual summit provided ample opportunity to promote the DataCite project especially in creating awareness about PIDs, and the roles they play in making knowledge accessible, and discoverable as a veritable means of ensuring ownership, the importance of DataCite services, and how belonging to the DataCite community through a low-cost membership model can serve the needs of African libraries. This was done through two presentations. The first one, ‘*Enabling Open Science with DataCite: Insights from Africa*’ which is available [here](#) was done by DataCite team and *Right attribution and ownership for African scholarship through PIDs which can be found [here](#)*, was done by the AfLIA project team.
- A course, ***Advancing Open Knowledge in Africa through Persistent Identifiers and Open Research Infrastructure***, was developed with key learning goals focused on strengthening African scholarship through open research infrastructure. The course emphasises understanding the role of Persistent Identifiers (PIDs) and metadata, using DataCite tools beyond simple DOI assignment, and adopting affordable open infrastructure to improve research visibility and accessibility. It also addresses responsible AI in open research and guides affordable pathways for African institutions to join DataCite, as well as success stories from African institutions that have implemented DataCite DOIs.

The course comes in five (5) modules and is hosted on [AfLIA's learning platform](#).

AfLIA 2025 Election

The Programme Officer circulated election nomination forms to members of 69 institutions in good standing, followed by reminder communications. A total of thirty-five (35) completed nomination forms were received. The submissions were collated, and nominations were grouped by section and region, with the results compiled accordingly. The collated forms were subsequently forwarded to the Executive Director for vetting.

The vetting process was undertaken to ensure procedural accuracy and to determine whether any positions resulted in tied outcomes that would require voting before the declaration of results. Following the completion of the process, formal letters were issued to notify both elected and non-elected members of the respective outcomes.

The elected positions were as follows:

2025-2027 Elected AfLIA Governing Council and Sectional Executives Members

No	Name	Position	Country
1	Sarah Iyaloo Negumbo	President	Namibia
2	Dr Mac-Anthony Cobblah	Vice President	Ghana

Sectional Executives

Position	Name	Country	Address
Academic Libraries & Library Consortia Section			
Chairperson	Ms. Mokgadi Senyolo	South Africa	UNISA
Vice Chairperson	Dr. Euphrasia Ng'andwe	Zambia	Chalimbaba University
Secretary	Dr. Gloria Tachie-Donkor	Ghana	University of Cape Coast
Publicity Secretary	Dr. Nkechi M. Amaechi	Nigeria	Federal University of Technology Owerri
National Libraries Section			
Chairperson	Bakary Sanyang	Gambia	Gambia National Library Service Authority (GNLSA)
Vice Chairperson	Jacob Ngwako Sekgoni	Botswana	Botswana National Library Services
Secretary	Hedwich Meyer	Namibia	National Library and Archives Services, Private Bag 13186

			Windhoek
Publicity Secretary	Sharon Munshya	Zambia	National Library of Zambia
Parliamentary Libraries Section			
Chairperson	Jessica Mensah	Ghana	Parliament of Ghana
Vice Chairperson	Amanda Fie		Parliament of Ghana
Secretary	Kaberia Shadrack		Parliament of Kenya
National Library Association Section			
Chairperson	Lynn Jibril	Botswana	University of Botswana, Gaborone
Vice Chairperson	Mutinta Mweemba Nabuyanda	Zambia	ZIMLA
Secretary	Omon Atsenokhai	Nigeria	Nigeria Library Association, c/o NLN HQ, Sanusi Dantata House, 1 st Floor, Room 5, CBD, Abuja
Publicity Secretary	Reyna Josvah-Rabiaza	Madagascar	Librarian and Documentary Information Association of Madagascar (APBIM) C/o PO Box 873, Antananarivo, Madagascar
Public and Community Libraries Section			
Chairperson	Aletta Dunn	Namibia	National Library and Archives Services, Private Bag 13186 Windhoek
Vice Chairperson	Akumuo Lawrence C	Nigeria	FCT -ERC City Library Wuse Zone 4 Abuja
Secretary	Sunitha Richard	South Africa	Msunduzi Library Services
Publicity Secretary	Sabina Neumbo	Namibia	National Library and Archives Services Private Bag 13186, Windhoek
Library Education and Training Institutions Section - (LETIS)			
Chairperson	Dr. Sarah Kaddu	Uganda	EASLIS, Kampala, Uganda
Vice Chairperson	Dr Monica Mensah-Danquah	Ghana	SL, LIS Department, University of Ghana
Secretary	Dr. Collence Chisita	Zimbabwe	Zimbabwe/South Africa LIS Education Department, South Africa

Publicity Secretary	Aba Amandzewaa Anaman	Ghana	Librarian, Institute of African Studies; University of Ghana
Co-Opted	Ms Aissa Mitha Issak	Mozambique	Pedagogical University
	Professor Ezra Shiloba Gbaje	Nigeria	Department of Library and Information Science Federal University Lokoja, Kogi State
Special Libraries Section			
Chairperson	Richard Fordjour	Ghana	National Banking College, Ghana
Vice Chairperson	Mhkokeli Moyo	Zimbabwe	Parks and Wildlife Management Authority Library, Zimbabwe
Regional Representatives			
Central Africa	NO NOMINATION		
Eastern Africa	Dr Alice Gitta Kutyamukama	Uganda	East African School of Library and Information Sciences
North Africa	Maha Abbas	Egypt	Bibliotheca Alexandrina, Egypt
Southern Africa	Mutinta Mweemba Nabuyanda	Zambia	ZIMLA
West Africa	Na'Angap Daship	Nigeria	National Library of Nigeria Plateau State Branch, , Nigeria.
French Speaking West Africa	Suleyman Sogoba	Mali	Bozola, Bamako Cellule de Planification et de Statistique du Secteur Développement Rural (CPS/SDR)
Portuguese Speaking Africa	Tendayi Madziga	Mozambique	UNiSCED

2025 AfLIA Conference

Papers and Posters

65 Paper Abstracts, 4 Posters and 1 Podium Idea proposals were received. After a blind review by 4 reviewers, 6 proposals were rejected, 23 were accepted without request for modification, 31 were accepted with comments for additions, whilst 5 were received with a request for modifications. All 4 poster proposals were accepted In

all, 30 Paper Abstracts and 1 poster were scheduled for presentation at the 6th AfLIA, scheduled to take place in Accra in May 2025.

Preconference

Two pre-conferences were held on 19th May 2025.

Figshare, AfLIA, and TCC jointly organised a virtual workshop on **Open Data Management for African Librarians** to accommodate those unable to attend the main conference. The second preconference, led by **IFLA-SSA**, took place at the University of Namibia (UNAM) Video Conference Room from 10:00 to 12:00, specifically targeting academic libraries.

The Main Conference

The 6th AfLIA Conference and 8th African Library Summit, was held at the Mercure Hotel, Windhoek, Namibia, from 18th to 23rd May 2025. The theme was **“Open Knowledge: present, future and African realities”**. It was addressed through 12 sub-themes.

The conference brought together over 200 attendees, including exhibitors from 12 African countries and beyond. Dignitaries from Namibia graced the opening of the 6th AfLIA Conference on 20th May. Among them were Prof. Ellen Ndeshi Namhilla, Pro-Vice Chancellor, Admin. & Finance, University of Namibia, who was also the keynote speaker for the opening ceremony. Her presentation, Open Knowledge: Present, Future, and African Realities, set a solid foundation for the subsequent sessions. Honourable Dino Ballotti, Deputy Minister, Ministry of Education, Innovation, Youth, Sports, Arts & Culture. Additionally, Directors from Libraries and most Ministries were present. Over 230 people attended the opening ceremony.

There were 10 sessions, 22 papers, and 10 presentations from Exhibitors. Time was also allocated for participants to visit the exhibition, where database vendors provide information on available resources for libraries.



As part of the conference, two snack breaks and lunch were provided for participants. Also, a Cultural evening with dinner, organised to showcase participants' cultures, learn from each other, and network, was held at Droombos on 22nd May 2025 under the theme "United Through Culture/ Unity in Diversity". The night was colourful, with cultural outfits, traditional music, and dance from all the countries represented at the venue.

AfLIA also presented the Open Knowledge Award of Excellence to Dr Collence Chisita, who emerged as the winner. The award included a fully paid registration fee to participate in the 6th Conference and 8th African Library Summit in Windhoek, Namibia. Accommodation and meals for the duration of the conference; Travel Scholarship, i.e., round-trip flight tickets to Windhoek, Namibia; ground transportation from his house to the airport, from the airport to the conference venue and back home. The award winner also received a specially designed honour plaque during the Cultural Night and Dinner at the conference.



The various sections met to discuss their well-being, introduce the newly elected executives to members, and discuss the way forward for the sections.

The Annual General Meeting was held on 22nd May 2025. The meeting was chaired by the outgoing President of AfLIA, Professor Rosemary Shaffack. The Executive Director gave her report on the status of AfLIA, including membership, programs and training and informed the meeting that several people applied to be individual members; however, after sending them the approval letter, most did not respond. She encouraged members to pay their dues on time so AfLIA can operate well. She also encouraged librarians whose institutions were not members to join as individual members. The AfLIA Accountant, Mr Dzah, informed the meeting that the accounts report was for 2023 and 2024 since 2025 had not ended.

The Executive Director confirmed the election results for the newly elected council members and said they would be inducted into office to serve a two-year term, renewable depending on their performance. The newly elected council members who attended the conference were then introduced and inducted into office to serve a two-year term (2025-2027).

The Conference was formally closed after the General meeting.

AfLIA Council Members Orientation Training

The training was an orientation and training session for newly elected Council members. It was held on 19 July 2025 via Zoom and facilitated by Past President Dr John Tsebe.

Our Partners

- **Africa Union** - Agreement towards the development of African Information and Knowledge Society, National, Academic and Community Libraries, etc, to enhance the delivery of the right information to the right person at the right time and development of Library and Information professional associations as promoters and drive force for equitable access to information, knowledge, and innovative services in Africa.
- **Bibliotheca Alexandrina of The Arab Republic of Egypt (BA)** - promotion of cooperation in the field of library and information sciences, capacity building and establishing African libraries networks and disseminating information among African libraries.
- **Black Caucus of the American Library Association, Inc (BCALA)**- to establish cooperation between AfLIA and BCALA on issues relating to library and information services, library resources and services sharing, to promote research and learning in all fields.
- **CILIP** - to carry out best practices in the development of Library Professional standards and accreditation including pursuance of development agendas framed on UN 2030 SDGs; exchange of ideas and information on conferences; professional exchanges enhancing professional experience and development; Cooperation in the advancement of knowledge and access to information as a human right; and a discussion of the creation and distribution of best practice content and potential publishing partnership with Facet Publishing.
- **EBLIDA** - best practice development of Library Legislation; implementation of UN 2030 Sustainable development Goals; and exchange of ideas and information on conferences
- **eLearning Africa (eLA)** - promotion of research and learning in all fields in Africa.
- **Electronic Information for Libraries (EIFL)** - capacity building of African public librarians.
- **Willian & Flora Hewlett Foundation** – capacity building of Library personnel on open education resources and operating support

- **Immersive Stories, Africa Lab** –The collaboration between the parties under this MoU is for running a pilot programme on immersive storytelling. The programme is aimed at teaching African librarians and the communities they serve best research, journalism, and storytelling practices using immersive technology. The workshop will run for 4-6 weeks. Librarians/communities are expected at the end of that period to produce.
- **International Federation of Library Associations and Institutions (IFLA)** - joint projects to strengthen the library field in Africa.
- **Mentors without Borders** - to establish a mutually beneficial relationship built on the basis for the development of a close partnership between MWB and AfLIA for teaching software development. The program is aimed at teaching mentees about web development, mobile development or artificial intelligence/machine learning. In this program, the students will learn and practice under the direct supervision of software development experts. Students will develop their skills in HTML, CSS, Javascript, C++, Java, Python, Kotlin or Swift. Students will also learn database skills, Agile software development practices and test-driven development principles.
- **Neil Butcher and Associates Early Literacy Development** - This project with AfLIA focuses on the following specific outcome: Deepened insight into how to build sustainable alternative African publishing systems as a contribution to early literacy and accompanying growth of local publishing, which can play a significant role in supporting early literacy acquisition in local languages
- **South African Institute of Distance Education (SAIDE)**- to work together on the African Storybook initiative and equitable and meaningful access to knowledge, skills and learning through the adoption of open learning principles and distance education methods.
- **The Wikimedia Foundation** - a collaboration aims to close the gap of underrepresented African voices on global platforms by training library professionals to edit, create, and share authentic knowledge on Wikimedia projects including Wikipedia, Wikidata, WikiCommons and WikiSource
- **The Wikipedia Library** - collaboration on organizing webinars on Wikipedia topics relevant for libraries and librarians; Organizing the first African Librarians Week; Hosting a progressive course model on AfLIA's Moodle platform
- **World Intellectual Property Organization (WIPO)** - intellectual property rights and access to information.
- **Yaounde African Parliamentary Institute (IPAY)** - to provide a non- exclusive framework for partnerships between the parties in the implementation of their action programmes for the training and capacity building of parliamentary staff in the fields of documentation and institutional information.

Staff

Bless K. Dzah, Accountant
Doreen Appiah, Program Officer
Eunice Jones-Arthur, Administrative Assistant (Membership)
Helena Asamoah-Hassan, Executive Director
Michael Thompson, Webmaster
Nkem Osuigwe, Human Capacity & Training Director
Stanley Boakye-Achampong, Research Coordinator & Communications Officer

Governing Council Members (May 2025 – May 2027)

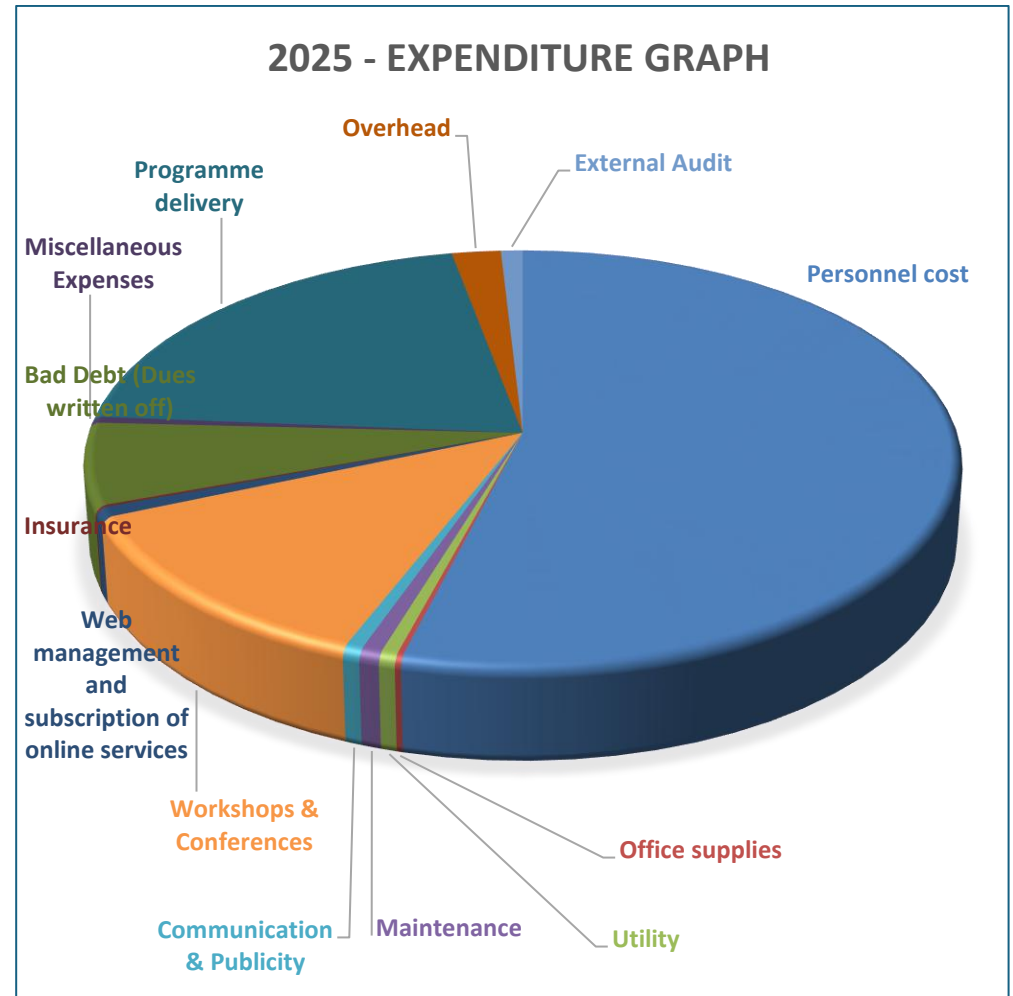
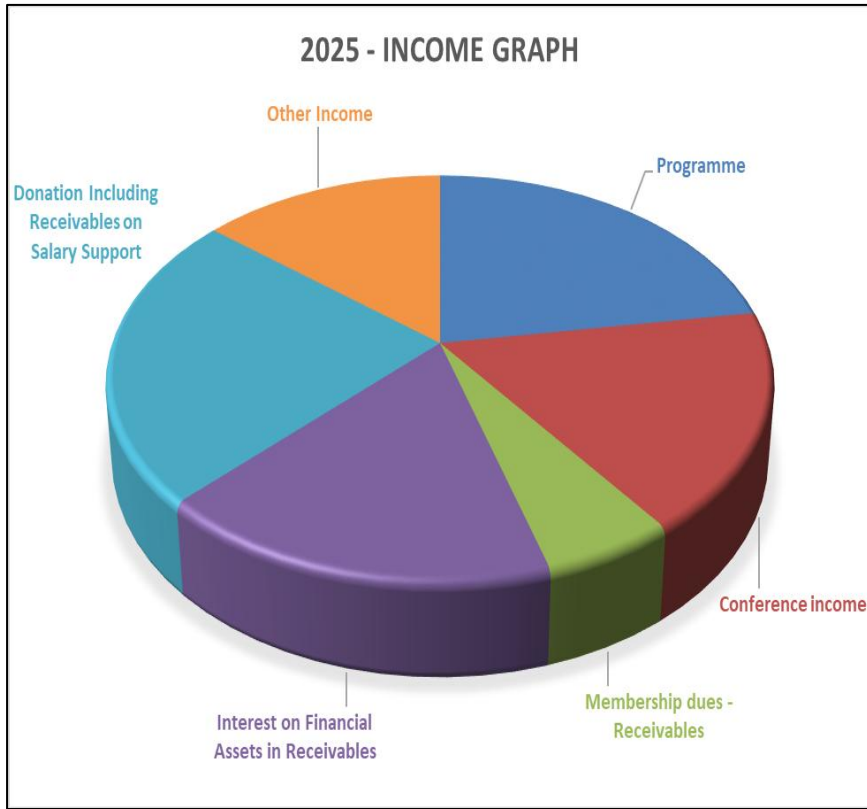
#	Name	Position
1	Sarah Iyaloo Negumbo	President
2	Dr Mac-Anthony Cobblah	Vice President
3	Prof. Rosemary Shafack	Immediate Past President
4	Dr. Helena Asamoah-Hassan	Executive Director
5	Bakary Sanyang	Chairperson: National Libraries Section
6	Ms. Mokgadi Senyolo	Chairperson: Academic Libraries & Library Consortia Section
7	Jessica Adjeley Mensah	Chairperson: Parliamentary Libraries Section
8	Lynn Jibril	Chairperson: National Library Association Section
9	Aletta Dunn	Chairperson: Public and Community Libraries Section
10	Dr. Sarah Kaddu	Chairperson: Library Edu. and Training Inst. Section (LETIS)
11	Richard Fodjour	Chairperson: Special Libraries Section
12	Dr Alice Gitta Kutyamukama	Eastern Africa
13	Maha Abbas	North Africa
14	Mutinta Mweemba Nabuyanda	Southern Africa
15	Na'Angap Daship	West Africa
16	Souleymane Sogoba	French-speaking West Africa
17	Tendayi Madziga	Portuguese Speaking Africa
18	Doreen Appiah	Secretary (AfLIA Staff)
	Co-Opted	
19	Dr John Kgwale Tsebe	1 st Elected Past President
20	Mr. Mandla Ntombela	2 nd Elected Past President
21	Mr. Alim Garga	3 rd Elected Past President
22	Dr. Nkem Osuigwe	Director of Human Capacity Development and Training

Financial Report

AFLIA INCOME AND EXPENDITURE 2025

INCOME	US\$	%
Programme	140,792.75	22
Conference income	109,338.94	17
Membership dues - Receivables	34,540.00	6
Interest on Financial Assets in Receivables	106,043.32	17
Donation Including Receivables on Salary Support	147,868.34	24
Other Income	87,675.84	14
Total	626,259.18	100

EXPENDITURE	US\$	%
Personnel cost	297,600.00	54
Office supplies	1,150.00	0
Utility	3,000.00	1
Maintenance	3,750.00	1
Communication & Publicity	3,175.00	1
Workshops & Conferences	69,310.45	13
Web management and subscription of online services	4,115.75	1
Insurance	780.00	0
Bad Debt (Dues written off)	35,000.00	6
Miscellaneous Expenses	2,595.00	0
Programme delivery	114,506.39	21
Overhead	11,285.00	2
External Audit	5,000.00	1
Total	551,267.59	100



Contacts

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Facebook: facebook.com/aflianetwork

LinkedIn: [linkedin.com/ organization/22326599/](https://linkedin.com/organization/22326599/)

Flicker: flickr.com/photos/15543599_6@N07/

YouTube: <https://www.youtube.com/c/AfLIA/>



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